

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 PC-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EA-06

L-02 H-01 /086 W

----- 014232

R 131505Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5125

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSULATE DOUALA VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CM

SUBJECT: UNC PARTY CONGRESS OPENS

REF: YAOUNDE 0386

1. SUMMARY. CAMEROON NATIONAL UNION (UNC) PARTY CONGRESS OPENED FEB 10 AND RECESSED FEB 11 FOR CAMEROON'S ANNUAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS. PRESIDENT AHIDJO HEAPED HIGH PRAISE ON DOUALA IN OPENING SPEECH AT CONGRESS AND STRESSED ROLE OF YOUTH IN PARTY IN YOUTH DAY MESSAGE. AHIDJO WELL RECEIVED BY DOUALA CROWDS. EVERYTHING PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY, WITH NO RPT NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF ANY PROBLEMS.

2. IN BUILDUP TO FEB 10 OPENING DATE OF UNC NATIONAL CONGRESS --
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AND TO SYMBOLIZE ALL THAT IS BEING DONE FOR DOUALA--DOUALA

WAS SCENE FEB 6-8 OF INAUGURATION BY VARIOUS GURC MINISTERS OF NEW LABOR EXCHANGE, HOME ECONOMICS CENTER, POULTRY-BREEDING STATION, SACK FACTORY, AND MARKETPLACE. PRESIDENT AHIDJO ARRIVED FEB 9 AND HIMSELF INAUGURATED A COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FAIR WHICH DISPLAYED DOUALA'S WARES AND EMPHASIZED ITS ROLE AS CAMEROON'S ECONOMIC CAPITAL.

3. PARTY CONGRESS ITSELF OPENED MORNING FEB 10 WITH WELCOMING WORDS BY LOCAL UNC SECTION PRESIDENT AND BRIEF OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH BY PARTY PRESIDENT AHIDJO. LATTER HEAPED GREAT PRAISE ON LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATION AND ITS MILITANTS FOR EXCELLENT PREPARATIONS FOR CONGRESS AND EMPHASIZED DOUALA'S SPECIAL ROLE, BY REASON OF ITS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, IN CAMEROON'S POLITICAL HISTORY. FLORIDLY DESCRIBED DOUALA AS "POLITICAL CONSCIENCE" OF COUNTRY DURING MARCH TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, AS REFLECTOR IN THE PAST OF ETHNIC AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN COUNTRY, AND AS SHOWPLACE OF NATIONAL UNITY IN TODAY'S CAMEROON.

4. AFTER ELECTION OF CONGRESS OFFICERS--NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MUNA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS'S BUREAU-- ONLY OTHER ACTIVITY OF OPENING DAY WAS READING OF MESSAGES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDLY PARTIES FROM CAR, CONGO, IVORY COAST, GABON, LIBYA, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, CHAD, TUNISIA, AND SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. MESSAGE SENT BY NORTH KOREAN PARTY WAS ALSO READ.

5. CONGRESS WAS IN RECESS FEB 11 AS DOUALA CELEBRATED CAMEROON'S NINTH ANNUAL YOUTH DAY OFFICIAL HOLIDAY WITH PARADE, PARACHUTE DROP, SOCCER GAMES, ETC. AHIDJO'S YOUTH DAY MESSAGE THIS YEAR APPROPRIATELY STRESSED CAMEROON'S YOUTH IN CONTEXT OF UNC PARTY. HE PRAISED "MASSIVE ADHERENCE" OF YOUTH TO PARTY'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION (JUNC) AND RECENT EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (REFTEL). STRESSED ROLE OF YOUTH AS AVANT GARDE IN STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL UNITY, THIS UNITY NECESSARILY BEING WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF UNC PARTY WHICH IS UNIFYING ELEMENT FOR ALL CAMEROONIANS.

6. COMMENT. CONSIDERING SCOPE OF UNDERTAKING CONGRESS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN MODEL OF EFFICIENCY. OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INITIAL REPORTS FROM DOUALA INDICATE PRESIDENT WELL RECEIVED EVERYWHERE BY LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS. NO RPT NO INDICATIONS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, OF ANY PROBLEMS SO FAR DESPITE PRE-CONGRESS MALAISE AND RUMORS REPORTED REFTEL AND PREVIOUS.
MOORE

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